

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 17736 091049Z

11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ERDA-05 ACDA-07 OES-06 /093 W
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O R 091018Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9942

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY IMMEDIATE

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA IMMEDIATE

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 17736

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS/ PFOR, TECHS

SUBJ: GUIDANCE REQUESTED ON WASHINGTON POST STORY ON SOVIET
NUCLEAR ASSISTANCE TO INDIA

1. DECEMBER 9 TIMES OF INDIA IN LEAD HEADLING CARRIES
WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT M.V. KAMATH'S HIGHLY TRUNCATED
PLAYBACK OF OBERDORFER STORY IN WASHINGTON POST DECEMBER
8 ON SOVIET NUCLEAR SUPPLY POLICY (WHICH EMBASSY HAS
RECEIVED IN USIS WIRELESS FILE).

2. KAMATH SAYS SOVIET AGREEMENT TO SELL 200 TONS HEAVY
WATER FOR USE IN RAPP II HAS BEGUN TO CAUSE CONCERN
AMONG US OFFICIALS AND SENIOR MEMBERS OF CARTER INCOMING
TEAM. KAMATH SAY US HAD MADE "FRANTIC REQUESTS TO SOVIET
UNION TO POSTPONE DECISION TO SELL HEAVY WATER TO INDIA AT
LEAST UNTIL NEXT SUPPLIER MEETING." KAMATH STORY DOES NOT
INCLUDE OBERDORFER PARAGRAPHS ON SOVIET INSISTANCE ON
SAGEGUARDS ON RAPP HEAVY WATER OR US "EXPERTS" COMMENTS
THAT DEAL APPEARS INCONSISTENT WITH GENERAL SOVIET POLICY
AND RELATED TO INDO-SOVIET BILATERAL RELATIONS.

3. WE ASSUME DEPARTMENT IS PREPARING PRESS GUIDANCE ON
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THIS AND OTHER ASPECTS OF OBERDORFER STORY BUT EMBASSY

WOULD APPRECIATE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE APPROPRIATE RESPONSE
WHICH WE HERE (AND CONGEN BOMBAY) MIGHT MAKE IF ASKED BY GOI
OFFICIALS ABOUT US REPRESENTATIONS TO SOVIETS NOT TO SELL HEAVY
WATER TO INDIANS. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE ANY BACKGROUND
ON OBERDORFER STORY'S REPORT OF ALLEGED SOVIET PROPOSAL
TO REQUIRE FULL FUEL-CYCLE SAFEGUARDS BEFORE SUPPLY OF
NUCLEAR MATERIAL TO ANY NPT COUNTRY.
SCHNEIDER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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